

Amendment Under 37.C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 09/047,252

The Examiner objected to figures 1-4. Applicant has submitted herewith a drawing correction authorization request in which the requested corrections to the figures have been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve this drawing corrections.

Claims 3, 5-6, 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Applicant has amended the claims to overcome this rejection and respectfully requests that it be withdrawn.

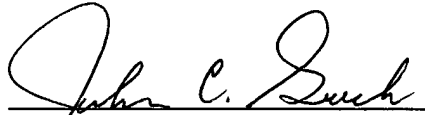
Claims 1 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Yamashita (U.S. Patent No. 5,615,256). Additionally, claims 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Yamashita. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 17 to incorporate the features of claims 2 and 18, respectively. Since claims 2 and 18 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter, applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to deposit account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

Pascal MELLOTT



James H. Morris, Reg. No. 34,681
John C. Gorecki, Reg. No. 38,471
WOLF, GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02210
Tel. (617)720-3500
Attorneys for the Applicant

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